

## ON THE WEST COAST

Professor Swensburg Visits the Gold Mines

### WHERE SAMPLE WORK IS DONE

How the Rich Deposits of Gold Are Washed Into Sluices by the Hydraulic System—A Gold Brick.

[LETTER NUMBER XXX.]

Dutch Flat was the most extensive placer gold mine in California. Prior to the anti-debris litigation thousands of men were employed working the auriferous deposits by hydraulic process. Millions of dollars of capital were also invested in the construction of canals, pipe lines, and long sluice tunnels for working the deposits. We were informed that these yielded about \$5,000,000 annually. The hydraulic mines were all closed by the order of the United States courts some twelve years ago, as the soil washed out was filling the Sacramento river and its tributaries, causing the overflow of farming lands, and rendering the river unnavigable. But this does not mean necessarily, that gravel mining will cease. The deposits are known to be rich and extensive, and can be mined by drifting. When that era comes, the mining sections will be more prosperous than ever, so state practical men, as fifty men will be employed in drifting to one man engaged in hydraulic operation.

### The First Reduction Works.

The first quartz mill ever erected in the state to reduce the ore for the extraction of gold was erected near Grass Valley, in 1850. It is estimated that the quartz mines of Grass Valley have produced over \$100,000,000 in gold bullion. Grass Valley is the principal quartz mining district of California. The Idaho Empire, North Star and many famous mines still continue to declare handsome dividends. Each year new discoveries are made, and it is said that the field is yet one of the best for prospecting. The introduction of water has cheapened the cost of mining and milling. For the special entertainment and practical instruction in hydraulic mining for the editorial party, the immense pipes had been repaired and the "water giants" set to work with their tremendous force, washing down the hills and rocks. The workings of these powers was a sight beyond description. It must be seen to be realized.

### Immense Excavations.

The great excavations made at Dutch Flat, previous to the stoppage of hydraulic mining are immense. The one into which the newspaper party was conducted is over a mile square with an average depth of over 200 feet, and we were informed by the owners that out of this pit over \$50,000,000 of gold had been washed.

The way the railroads run up, into and around the mountains is a grand yet frightful sight.

Before the arrivals of our trains tables had been spread in the bottom of the excavation with a miner's breakfast, tin cups, tin plates and tin spoons, —using our fingers for knives and forks. The walk down into the operations was over a rough path, passing points where practical illustrations of primitive

methods of gold mining were in operation for our edification. Here we saw the "shovel" and the "pick," the "pan" and the "cradle," the sluice washing, with old half-century miners to show how it was all done.

As the editorial excursionists filed down the bank, in long lines, blasts were fired as salutes, and an exhibition of blast-hydraulic mining shows us. Near the place where the tables were set, the great giants were made to work, throwing four and six inch streams of water under eighty to one hundred pounds of pressure, directed around and behind immense rocks, eating their way back of these boulders and gravel banks, melting and throwing the same as a most astonishing rate and distance. From the banks against which these powerful streams were directed, the water flowed away with a tremendous roar and rush, loaded with sand, gravel, earth and gold, into sluices where there are various devices for separating with quicksilver, and thus retaining the gold. This is lively work, and nobody but one familiar with the process has any business with it. We were told that a man's chances for life were better standing before a cannon, fired at him, than before one of these giant streams of water.

### Presented a Gold Brick.

After about an hour's work the "giants" were shut off for a general clean up in the sluices. The result was \$250 in gold, which was cast into a bar and presented to the National Editorial association by Doolittle & Gould of the Gold Run mine. The association afterwards voted to have it cast into a handsome gavel with proper inscriptions and for the N. E. A.'s future use. It was estimated that a complete clean up of the sluices would yield about \$2,000 more, which was to be cast into a memorial bar for the governor of the state.

The people of California, and especially those directly interested in the mines, are very anxious to have hydraulic mining resumed, and their plan is to build great dams across the canyons and valleys below points where the placer mines are located, thus to catch and retain the gravel and sand which otherwise would be carried on to the flat lands and river below. If this shall be done, they say that about \$10,000,000 every year could be taken from the placer mines of Nevada and only alone. Assuming that such an output of gold would prove of general benefit to the country at large, it is proposed to ask congress to make an appropriation to build the necessary dams. Their main argument is and will be that such an appropriation to build the necessary dams will be to maintain and protect navigation in lower Sacramento. Without doubt a large production of gold in the United States is of general benefit to the people at large, and the suggestions and demands of California with regard to the resumption of placer mining are at least worthy of candid consideration. The mine owners claim the gold to be worth more than all the farms that would be flooded and filled up by the debris above. We found a number of Grand Rapids people who had left here for the gold fields forty years ago.

### Largest Nugget of Gold.

The largest nugget of gold ever found in California was in November, 1851, at Carson Hill, Calaveras county. Its weight was 155 pounds troy, valued at \$43,534. Calaveras has been noted for the production of the precious metals. There has been a steady gold production since it was first discovered, and it is reported that the yield still continues in paying quantities.

ties from its numerous quartz mines. Copperopolis is the center of copper mines. The copper used in the construction of the cruisers Charleston and San Francisco came from the Campo Seco copper mine, which is the only mine in California producing merchantable copper ready to be used. Inyo has credit for at least two thirds of the total silver product of the state. The product of silver, gold and other valuable metals and minerals is estimated at about fifteen millions. The geological and mineralogical features are numerous and rich—arsenic, butirstone, dolomite, diorite, plumbago, gneiss, granite, limestone, marble, mica, manganese, porphyry, slate, syenite, sandstone, talc, cement, fireclay, gold, silver, copper, antimony, zinc, lead, iron, bismuth, borax, soda, salt, sulphur and many other species of minerals. A most important addition of Inyo, and a comparatively recent discovery, consists of a vast quarry of the finest marble, rising to about 1,000 feet above the level of the valley. It is of all shades and of beautiful combinations of colors. It is shipped to various points for building purposes. Our next letter will be of Nevada City and other mining districts. C. G. S.

### "BEYOND THE ALPS LIES ITALY."

A fresh memorial to vanished youth. The sweet girl graduate, with flower face. Her eyes so full of trust, her heart of truth. Looking o'er all the world to find her place. Her theme holds weighty words and thoughts so sad.

A travesty on life in phrase austere; But youthful confidence is unafraid. And gladness vibrates in the tones so clear, "Beyond the Alps lies Italy!"

The joy of triumph and of proud applause. Sweet floral offerings, the music's steel. Fair, sunny slope of youth! Oh, let us pause And linger in this girlhood's gladsome hour. Ere yet she climbs those rugged slopes of life. Where womanhood with all its mystery lies. Remember, ere you go to meet its strife, Oh, maiden innocent, grown strangely wise, "Beyond the Alps lies Italy!"

The essay soon will yellow grow with time. The years will bring the rosary of tears. Wear and footsore, we the hills must climb. And stumble o'er the stones of care and fears.

The mist of doubt will all the landscape veil. The summit lies so very far away. The foot may falter and the courage fail. The stern pale line will quiver then to say, "Beyond the Alps lies Italy!"

Oh, when the hands that helped you up the slope Shall loose the clasp we cannot always keep; When in the night of pain you upward grope— Blinded by tears, with lagging footsteps creep— Then let your girlhood's maxim cheer your heart—

A poet of joy through all life's and refrain— Though here we love and lose, and meet and part. There is a height where pleasure conquers pain— "Beyond the Alps lies Italy!" —Anna R. Patten in Youth's Companion.

In Down Town New York. "The trouble with you New Yorkers is, Quill," said the man from Boston—they had been looking over Trinity church—"that your buildings lack age; they are not venerable enough to command the respect of the soul instinct with the ideals of all that is hallowed by the past. Now, there is the Old South—

"But what's the matter with that?" interposed Quill—they were strolling toward the Battery, and were opposite 45 Broadway—"what's the matter with that? There's Adams Express company. There couldn't be anything much older or more venerable than Adam, could there?"—New York Times.

## MEATS AT LOW PRICES.

Corn Fed Beef Sold at Remarkably Low Figures—An Appended Price List.

There seems to be no decrease in the number of people that make purchases at the Western Beef and Provision company, Canal street. Each day's business is only a repetition of the former—an immense trade and the moving of mountains of meat from the premises. The Western Beef and Provision company has been holding a grand reduction sale and it merits the success it has received. The sale is still on. The beef handled by the firm is corn fed and from the western belt. Appended is a partial list of some of the prices offered:

Porterhouse steaks, 8 to 9 cents.  
Round steak, 7 to 8 cents.  
Good steak, 6 cents.  
Seven-rib roast, 7 to 8 cents.  
Good beef roast, 4 to 5 cents.  
Kettle roast, 3 to 5 cents.  
No. 1 ham, 11 cents.  
California ham, 8 cents.  
Dried beef, 7 1/2 to 8 cents.  
Whole loins of beef, 7 1/2 to 9 cents.  
Pork roasts, 7 1/2 to 8 cents.  
Pork loins, 10 cents.  
Pork sausage, 8 cents.

What would be nicer for a Christmas present than a sideboard or bookcase, or some other handsome article of furniture? See our line, NELSON, MATTER & CO., 33 to 39 Canal st.

Ladies' Literary Club members should hear Locke Richardson's recital of Dickens' "Christmas Carol" at Hartman Hall, December 1st.

Christmas Novelties. E. D. Carstens, 44 Canal street, is showing a splendid line of novelties in jewelry, silverware, watches, etc. Mr. Carstens spent much time in selecting his holiday goods, and it is safe to say his exhibit is as neat and attractive as any in the city. Seekers of Christmas gifts will find it to their advantage to give Mr. Carstens a call.

Novelties for holidays. NELSON, MATTER & CO., 33 to 39 Canal street.

Special sale of stamped linens at wholesale prices this week. Hundreds of designs. COME, KNORR & CO.

See our fancy stools, baskets, etc. Just the thing for Christmas. NELSON, MATTER & CO., 33 to 39 Canal street.

Locke Richardson's Recital of Dickens' "Christmas Carol" will be given at Hartman Hall, December 1st.

Remember we are first hands on all kinds of office furniture. Roll Top desks, \$20. The best desk in the world for the money. NELSON, MATTER & CO., 33 to 39 Canal street.

Dentist's is headquarters for fish and game.



## A STILL NEWER PRICE

FOR

## ENGRAVED CARDS.

50c For 100 best Visiting Cards from Photo.

90c For 100 best Visiting Cards and Engraved Photo.

\$1.15 For 100 best Visiting Cards and Engraved Photo with Name and Address.

By an arrangement with the large fine stationery manufacturing house of George B. Hurd & Co. of New York City, whereby we agree to take a very large quantity of goods and to handle all their new styles of papers, we are enabled to buy at an inside price and have decided to give the extra profit to our customers. Starting on Monday, Nov. 14, we will reduce prices on all fine stationery at least one-third from our former prices and promise to carry the most complete line ever shown in Grand Rapids.

EATON, LYON & CO.

20 and 22 Monroe Street.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

MONDAY, NOV. 21 and TUESDAY, NOV. 22

Two Great Bargain Days at the COLUMBIA SHOE STORE 125 MONROE ST.

Another consignment of Ladies' Men's and Children's Shoes from the recent failure of the wholesale firm of J. Morris & Co., has been shipped to us to be disposed of at once for the benefit of judgement creditors who are clamoring for a speedy settlement. This sale will commence Monday at 8 a. m. sharp and be continued for two days. These goods will be slaughtered off regardless of cost or value as money must be realized at once. We quote only a few of those numerous bargains as space is too limited.

Ladies' Dongola Button.....worth \$1.50 for \$.50  
Ladies' Common Sense Front Lace Shoes...worth 1.75 for .65  
Ladies' Beaver Top, Warm Lined Lace Shoes.....worth 1.75 for .95  
Ladies' Fine Dongola Button.....worth 2.50 for 1.25  
Misses' Goat Button, all sizes.....worth 1.50 for .80  
Ladies' Fine Dongola patent Tip, hand turned.....worth 3.50 for 1.75  
Ladies' Fleece Lined Rubbers.....worth .50 for .25

COLUMBIA SHOE STORE 125 MONROE ST.



I am a Trav'ling man! I'll tell you of my plan. In spite of all temptation I pursue my old vocation. I'm still a Trav'ling man! A jolly Fairbank man! CHORUS: For he himself has said it, And it's greatly to his credit, That he is a Trav'ling man! That he is a Fairbank man!

## SANTA CLAUS SOAP

Sold by Traveling men and Grocers Everywhere. Manufactured only by N. K. FAIRBANK & CO., Chicago, Ill.

"IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED," TRY

## SAPOLIO

# BUY WHILE THERE IS NOT A RUSH!

READ THIS LIST OF BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS GIFTS. THE PRICES ARE "OUT OF SIGHT." ASK OUR CLERKS.

Berry Spoons, new styles, all Rogers Bros.' best make. Pie Knives in elegant designs and very tasty and natty. Egg Spoons, beautifully engraved and ornamented. Orange Sets, spoon and pearl handled knife, plush lined case. Oyster Forks, all new patterns, in plush lined cases. After Dinner Coffee Spoons, rich in design and all new. Fruit Knives, beautifully engraved and exquisite in taste—see them. Olive Forks, a novelty and great adornment for the table—just the thing for a gift. Napkin Rings, chased, frosted, hand-engraved and all sorts—pick your choice. Peppers and Salts, souvenir "Grand Rapids" in gold letters on the side. Cream Ladies, stylish, dainty and just the thing to complete a coffee or tea set. Horse Radish Spoons, long handled, embossed and are the latest fad in spoons. Silver Baking Dishes, all styles, sizes and kinds, making a handsome as well useful gift. Silver Vegetable Dishes, covered, removable handle, making them useful as two dishes.

The prices on these SILVER PRESENTATION GOODS are so low that all can afford to make their friends a valuable present at little cost. Ask our clerks for prices.

Silver Picture Frames, small and cabinet sizes, a tasty and appreciated gift. Postage Stamp Boxes, a novelty and convenient for any one at any time. Cups and Saucers in great variety, beautiful and useful, appreciated by all. Syrup Cups, Shaving Mugs, Match Safes, Bon Bon Baskets. Three Four and Five Piece Tea Sets. Individual Butter Spreaders. Silver Backed Combs, Tablets, Soap Boxes and Flasks, a handy gift for your traveling friends. Tooth Pick Holders, Card Cases, Pen Wipers, Nut Bowls, Pickle Casters, Fish Knives and Forks, Call Bells, Berry Dishes, Decorated Bowls, Bread Trays, Match Boxes.

It is often a puzzle as to what to give our friends for Christmas. The list is only a sample of what our stores contain, and if none of these fit your case, come in and see the beautiful things of all conceivable kinds for Christmas and every day use.

H. LEONARD'S SONS & CO., 29 AND 31 MONROE STREET.